

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05
DHA-02 EUR-12 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /103 W
-----232048Z 054115 /46

R 231141Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1353
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1554

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR XF XA MO
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEWS ON ARAB AND
AFRICAN ISSUES

REF: RABAT 1439 (NOTAL), STATE 046135, STATE 034960, RABAT 1051
(NOTAL)

1. DURING TOUR D'HORIZON MARCH 22, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR
FOR ARAB LEAGUE AFFAIRS MOHAMED SAADANI COMMENTED ON ARAB
AND AFRICAN ISSUES IN AFTERMATH OF CAIRO SUMMIT:

2. ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT: SAADANI BELIEVED THE LARGE SUMS OF
ARAB MONEY EARMARKED AT CAIRO SUMMIT FOR AFRICANS COULD BE
EXPECTED TO COUNTER EFFECTIVELY WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS
RECENTLY INTENSIFIED ISRAELI EFFORTS TO RENEW RELATIONS WITH
AFRICAN STATES. THE ARABS WERE NOT PRESSING FOR AFRICAN
COMMITMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, SUCH AS ZIONISM/RACISM. ARAB
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APPROACH WAS MORE GENERAL AND SUBTLE, BASED ON EXPECTATION THAT
AFRICANS WOULD INCREASINGLY COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BEST
INTERESTS LAY WITH THE ARABS. ALGERIANS, WHO WERE OBVIOUSLY
STRAPPED AND HAD NOT OFFERED ANY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO
AFRICANS AT CAIRO SUMMIT, WERE UNHAPPY WITH SAUDI APPROACH
AIMED AT DIRECTING AID TO MORE CONSERVATIVE AFRICANS.

3. SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA: SAADANI EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE, NOTING THAT KING HASSAN HAD SENT MINISTER OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS DEY OULD SIDI BABA TO KINSHASA IN THIS CONNECTION. SAADANI ALSO VIEWED CASTRO AND PODGORNÝ AFRICAN TRIPS AS ALARMING REFLECTION OF INCREASING COMMUNIST EFFORTS IN THE AREA.

4. HORN OF AFRICA: SAADANI WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT SAUDI EFFORTS, SUPPORTED BY SUDANESE AND OTHER ARABS, COULD HELP MODERATE SOMALI DEPENDENCE ON USSR. MOROCCO HOPED TO PRESERVE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONTINUING TO PROVIDE MODEST SUPPORT FOR THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT, WHOSE NORTH AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVE WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FROM TIME TO TIME. SAADANI HAD REPORT THAT 70 PERCENT OF ERITREAN TERRITORY WAS NOW UNDER CONTROL OF THE REBELS. HE HAD ALSO HEARD THAT THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WAS HAVING CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY WITH ETHIOPIAN GUERRILLAS LOYAL TO THE FORMER IMPERIAL REGIME CONTINUING TO FIGHT IN THE NORTH OF THE COUNTRY. DESPITE ETHIOPIAN INSTABILITY, GOM DID NOT FAVOR TRANSFER OF OAU HEADQUARTERS FROM ADDIS ABABA.

5. SAHARA: SAADANI COMMENTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN CONTACTS AT CAIRO SUMMIT. MEANWHILE, OAU SPECIAL SUMMIT ON SAHARA APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. OAU SECRETARY GENERAL HAD BEEN UNDER STRONG ALGERIAN PRESSURE TO GO THROUGH WITH SPECIAL SUMMIT AND HAD AT ONE POINT TRIED TO SET A DATE OF LATE APRIL, BUT QUESTION OF SITE HAD BEEN INSURMOUNTABLE. MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS HAD NOT BEEN CONTACTED BY OAU REGARDING ANY NEW DATE OR VENUE FOR THE

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SPECIAL SUMMIT. MOROCCO'S SUSPENSION OF OAU PARTICIPATION MADE OAU SPECIAL SUMMIT EVEN LESS LIKELY THAT IT HAD BEEN BEFORE, IN SAADANI'S ESTIMATION.
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
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